

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

*Carol A. Murray, Commissioner*

**For Immediate Release**

October 9, 2002

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**OCTOBER 10 IS SECOND ANNUAL "PUT THE BRAKES ON FATALITIES DAY"**  
**GOAL IS TO HELP REDUCE HIGHWAY FATALITIES AND INJURIES**

Increasing public awareness and personal responsibility for safe roadway travel is the purpose of the second annual "Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day", set for October 10, 2002.

Since 1992, the number of traffic fatalities nationwide has hovered around 41,000 to 42,000 annually. That's about 115 fatalities every day – one every 15 minutes. Last year, 142 people died in fatal crashes on New Hampshire highways. As of October 6 of this year, 96 people have died in highway crashes, compared to 106 by the same date in 2001.

"The New Hampshire Department of Transportation is constantly working to improve the quality and safety of our highway system, through design improvements, construction and vigilant maintenance," says NHDOT Commissioner Carol Murray. "The goal is to have a zero fatality day on October 10 and fewer fatalities throughout the year."

"We have one of the safest highway systems in the world, but we must take greater personal responsibility when using it, especially by always buckling up," says Federal Highway Administration Deputy Administrator J. Richard Capka. "Continuous advances in highway design, such as more visible pavement markings and signs, skid resistant pavements and rumble strips are enhancing the positive effects of driver attention in improving safety."

Here are some safe driving tips for motorists:

- Cutting in front can cut your life short! Avoid cutting in front of other vehicles. You may create an emergency braking situation for others around you.
- Buckle your seat belt! ALWAYS!
- Watch your blind spots and the "No Zones" around trucks and buses.
- Inattentive drivers. While driving, please focus only on the road. If you need to attend to another matter while driving, safely pull over in a parking lot or rest stop.
- Avoid aggressive drivers and driving aggressively. Speeding, running red lights and stop signs, making frequent lane changes and tailgating can create dangerous situations on the road.
- Avoid the squeeze play. Be careful of trucks and buses making wide right turns.
- Never drink and drive!

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